

**Black Hills Regional OHV Public Collaborative Learning Workshops**  
**Sponsored by Black Hills National Forest**

Greetings. We're excited to announce the rescheduled collaborative learning process that includes a series of public workshops designed to discuss a set of important issues related to OHV recreation in the Black Hills region. These public engagement workshops are the revised and rescheduled events originally planned for August/September of 2021 – and postponed due to COVID-19. In February 2021 the Black Hills National Forest hosted a two-day stakeholder and partner OHV Summit to listen to concerns and hear about OHV issues.

OHV management challenges are well defined and are clearly understood by the US Forest Service, State and County authorities. These workshops are designed for us to work on improvements to this economically important recreation opportunity and develop a framework for a National Forest OHV management plan. Please join us to find ways to improve the situation. Each session will be facilitated by Jessica Western from Big Goose Creek Resolutions.

Nearly all issues discussed at the February 2021 OHV Summit fell in to **five broad themes (number does not denote priority ranking)**:

- 1. OHV use compliance and law enforcement**
- 2. OHV road and trail system design and engineering**
- 3. OHV user engagement, education, behavior and how to improve the general situation building on tread lightly and ride responsibly**
- 4. Developing a successful, long-term strategy for stakeholder/partner and public engagement**
- 5. Collaborate across all political and ownership boundaries on solutions**

We plan to discuss each of these themes as they relate to moving forward with a framework for an OHV management plan for the Black Hills NF, and hopefully a broader Black Hills regional OHV management plan.

Our upcoming public workshops represent a great opportunity to come together to generate solutions and National Forest and/or Black Hills region management plans to improve the recreation experience for visitors and residents. To be effective, the ideas and management plans must be realistic and implementable, and partners and stakeholders alike must be committed to working together.

**Workshop Objectives:**

1. Assemble a strong coalition of interested stakeholders to work in a positive, realistic manner to improve OHV recreation for everyone in the Black Hills region.
2. Hold a series of topic specific workshops to address the 5 themes identified at the February OHV Summit.
3. Build a framework for a Black Hills National Forest OHV Strategy for Success.
4. Leverage public/stakeholder input on OHV recreation for the revision of the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Each set of workshops is offered three times (two different geographic locations plus a virtual option). The topics covered in each set of workshops will be the same – we are simply offering multiple opportunities for each workshop with dates/locations to encourage participation.

**The workshop topics, times and locations are (please check our Black Hills National Forest OHV website for any updates – the link is at the end of this message)**

***The first round of workshop meetings will all cover themes 1, 2 and 4 as well as setting the stage for an OHV Management Plan:***

1. OHV use compliance and law enforcement
2. OHV road and trail system design and engineering
4. Developing a successful, long-term strategy for stakeholder/partner and public engagement

Plan to attend one of the following offerings:

**15 March** will be held in Rapid City, SD at the Holiday Inn from 6-9 PM; doors open at 5:30

**16 March** will be held in Spearfish, SD at the Black Hills State University Joy Center from 6-9 PM; doors open at 5:30

**22 March** Virtual Offering of this meeting using ZOOM meeting platform – watch the Black Hills NF website (listed below) for meeting link information. Session will be held from 6-9PM online.

***The second round of workshop meetings will cover theme 3 and 5 and refining the OHV Management Plan framework:***

3. OHV user engagement, education, behavior and how to improve the general situation building on tread lightly and ride responsibly
5. Collaborate across all political and ownership boundaries on solutions

Plan to attend one of the following offerings:

**5 April** will be held in Hill City, SD at the Hill City High School Commons from 6-9 PM; doors open at 5:30

**6 April** in Sundance, WY at the Crook County Administrative building from 6-9 PM; doors open at 5:30

**12 April** Virtual Offering of this meeting using ZOOM meeting platform – watch the Black Hills NF website (listed below) for meeting link information. Session will be held from 6-9PM online.

The workshops are open to all members of the public, stakeholder groups and our partners with a high level of interest in OHV recreation in the broader Black Hills region.

For more information on these OHV workshops, including information from the February OHV Summit please visit our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/blackhills/ohvworkshop>